

SONATA FOR VIOLONCELLO AND PIANO by David Avshalomov

The elegant, formal Sonata for Violoncello and Piano, though non-programmatic, reflects Russian and East European art-music influences. The writing for the cello is heroic. The work was written for Howard Colf of the LA Philharmonic.

The opening Andante movement is in a very tight sonata form with varied reprise and strongly contrasting thematic sections, romantic/rhapsodic in overall feeling.

The Lento middle movement is a simple one-theme song-form, the melody almost entirely in the solo cello, over a low bell-like ostinato in the piano with occasional tinkling rising filigree. It serves as a prayerful meditation.

The driven, dramatic, extended, multi-themed, mock-heroic finale (Ghost Riders) has an almost Soviet-modern sound, and an off-hand ending.